



## Adirondack Park Agency

**LEILANI CRAFTS ULRICH**  
Chairwoman

**TERRY MARTINO**  
Executive Director

### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Terry Martino, Executive Director

FROM: Dan Kelleher, Special Assistant for Economic Affairs

DATE: December 3, 2015

RE: Economic Services Unit Activities for November, 2015.

Unit activities were as follows:

#### **Agriculture Development**

On November 30, staff attended a forum on the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in the Adirondacks; the meeting was held in Whallonsburg, Essex County. The meeting was coordinated by the Adirondack Council and included a presentation by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard Ball. Topics discussed included distribution, processing, and funding. A 2014 Cornell study found significant room for expansion in the agricultural sector but that distance to markets and processing facilities is limiting the ability of farmers to produce profitably.

#### **Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance (HEPA) Initiative**

On November 16, staff met with leaders from ADK Community Works, a local charitable foundation, to discuss the Agency's Hamlet Economic Planning and Assistance Initiative. ADK Community Works assists communities throughout Essex and Warren Counties with economic and community development issues. The organization expressed interest in the Agency's HEPA initiative and will facilitate meetings between the Agency and local government leaders in the region.

On November 24, staff met with officials from a town in Essex County to discuss a potential HEPA initiative in that town. Additionally, on November 13, staff met with officials from a town in Warren County to discuss the HEPA initiative as well as other economic assistance.

#### **Community Outreach**

On November 5, staff presented to students from the Clarkson University Adirondack Semester program. Staff presented on the Agency's rules and regulations, economic development in the Park, and project permitting. Clarkson University's Adirondack

Semester introduces students to the Park by immersing them in the region and implementing a project-based curriculum where students study various Adirondack issues. Students spend a semester living in the Village of Saranac Lake and receive presentations from numerous stakeholder groups including environmental organizations, community development non-profits, and local businesses. Agency staff has participated in the program since its inception four years ago.

On November 18, staff attended a meeting of the Lake Placid Business Networking International (BNI) group in Lake Placid, Essex County. The mission of BNI is to help members increase their business through a structured and professional "word-of-mouth" program. There are over 25 local businesses in the Lake Placid BNI group. Staff introduced the Agency's business assistance programs to the group and offered its services in demographic and market analysis as well as its assistance with Agency review and permitting.

### **Eat ADK Restaurant Week**

Staff is assisting a workgroup seeking to establish a restaurant week event in the Lake Placid/Saranac Lake region. The event will be used to spur economic activity in the "off season" month of May. A workgroup has been formed to take a leadership role in the event's development and staff will provide assistance and expertise to the workgroup as needed. Prior to working for the Agency, Special Assistant Kelleher worked as the Business Development Manager for the Downtown Albany Business Improvement District (BID) where he helped facilitate the organization's Downtown Albany Restaurant Week. The feasibility of hosting a restaurant week in Lake Placid was explored by Paul Smith's College students.

### **Regulatory Programs Support**

Economic Services staff is supporting the Regulatory Programs Division on several projects including two hotels in Essex County, a campground in Herkimer County, a subdivision in Essex County, a dam project in Fulton County, and a marina in Franklin County.

### **Planning Division Support**

Staff is supporting the State Lands Division in the Agency's review of the Remsen-Lake Placid Travel Corridor Unit Management Plan and its development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for revisions to the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan.